

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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SUBJECT: ROMANIA STEPS UP ITS ANTI-RFE ACAMPAIGN

REFS: A. BUCHAREST 5965; B. BUCHAREST 6376

1. ROMANIAN ANTI-RFE CAMPAIGN GREW DURING PAST WEEK. THREE POLEMIC ARTICLES IN CENTRAL PRESS CRITICIZED RFE BROAD-CASTS AND PERSONALITIES. TWO WERE PENNED BY WRITER-EDITOR EUGEN BARGU (SAPTIMINA, DECEMBER 26, AND ROMANIA LIBERA, DECEMBER 29); THE OTHER BY LUCEFARUL EDITOR NICOLAE DRAGOS (LUCEFARUL, DECEMBER 30, 1975). TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ROMANIA LIBERA PIECE IS FIRST SUCH AUTHORITATIVE PRINTED ATTACK ON RFE TO APPEAR IN IMPORTANT DAILY SINCE 1972 WHEN U.S. SENATE DEBATES ON RFE FINANCING PROVIDED IRRESISTIBLE OCCASION.

2. IN ROMANIA LIBERA BARBU SCORNS RFE'S "FATHERLY CONCERN" FOR ROMANIAN ECONOMY AND ITS SHEDDING OF "CROCODILE TEARS". COMMENTING THAT, WHILE NOT AN ECONOMIST, HE IS AS QUALIFIED TO SPEAK ON SUBJECT AS RFE'S EMIGRE EXPERT, "A STUDENT HARDLY OFF THE BENCHES OF THE FACULTY OF FOREIGN TRADE", BARBU BITTERLY ATTACKS RFE'S CRITICISM OF ROMANIA'S FORCED INDUSTRIALIZATION, E.G., "WHY DO WE PROVIDE JOBS AND BREAD TO SO MANY WHEN THEY

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COULD BE ON THE DOLE AS IS HAPPENING IN THE COUNTRY WHICH

PLAYS HOST TO RFE". HE THEN RECALLS SIMILAR CRITICISM BY "SOMEBODY ELSE" (READ SOVIETS) WHO SOME YEARS AGO FELT THAT "WE SHOULD RAISE OUR ANIMALS AND TEND OUR PASTURES, LEAVING INDUSTRY TO OTHERS". BARBU ARTICLE WAS AIRED DECEMBER 27 DURING "ORELE SERII" PROGRAM WHICH HAS BECOME MAIN RADIO OUTLET FOR ANTI-RFE BROADSIDES. BARBU'S SAPTAMINA ARTICLE, "MAMA LOVINESCU AND THE REFUGEES" APPEARS TO BE SAME ONE BROADCAST ON "ORELE SERII" ON DECEMBER 6, WHICH ATTACKED RFE STAFFER MONICA LOVINESCU, WRITER PAUL GOMA AND EXILE AUTHOR DUMITRU TEPENEAG (REF B).

3. DRAGOS ARTICLE DOES NOT MENTION RFE BY NAME BUT TARGET IS CLEAR ENOUGH, BEING DESCRIBED AS VOICES "FED BY BLIND HATE" WHICH THROUGH THE YEARS HAVE PREDICTED CATASTROPHES, CATACLYSMS, AND NATIONAL TRAGEDIES. ARTICLE LABELS THESE "MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE FLED OUT OF OBSCURE MOTIVES" TRAITORS TO THEIR COUNTRY. SAME EDITION OF LUCEFARUL ALSO FEATURES POEM BY ADRIAN PAUNESCU, ENTITLED "TO THE TRAITORS" PROBABLY ALSO DIRECTED AGAINST RFE COMMENTATORS AS WELL AS OTHER EXILE ROMANIANS CRITICAL OF REGIME.

4. COMMENT: ANTI-RFE CAMPAIGN IS UNFOLDING WITHIN WIDER GOR EFFORT TO OFFSET POST-CSCE BASKET-THREE HOPES WITHIN POPULACE AND TO DEVELOP MORE TENABLE PROPAGANDA POSTURE AGAINST WESTERN CRITICISM OF ROMANIA'S IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMANITARIAN COMMITMENTS. MEDIA IS NOW AMPLIFYING CEAUSESCU'S DECEMBER 3 EQUATION OF EMIGRATION WITH TREASON, AND YEAR-END PROGRAMMING HAS FEATURED EVEN HIGHER-THAN-USUAL PITCH OF NATIONAL-PATRIOTIC APPEAL WHICH, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, CONTAIN VEILED POTSHOTS AT SOVIETS AS WELL. HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT THAT DIRECT ATTACKS ON RFE'S CREDITILITY MAY SERVE TO ATTRACT MORE LISTENERS TO IT AND STRENGTHEN IT AMONG THAT SECTION OF THE POPULATION WHO ARE REGULAR LISTENERS, GIVEN PUBLIC SKEPTICISM TOWARD OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS.

BARNES

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